

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of aqueous solutions of epichlorohydrinamine polymers, the process comprising ~~the following process steps~~:

(a) ~~Reaction of~~ reacting at least two different amines with at least one epichlorohydrin derivative as an alkylating agent in water over a period which is sufficient for free alkylating agents to be no longer detectable, ~~a reaction mixture (I) resulting in a~~ reaction mixture (I);

(b) if appropriate, cooling of the reaction mixture (I) ~~resulting from process step (a)~~;

(c) ~~addition of~~ adding at least one acid and, if appropriate, water to ~~this the~~ reaction mixture (I) until the pH of the reaction mixture (I) is from 4 to 10, ~~a reaction mixture (II) resulting in a~~ reaction mixture (II), and

(d) if appropriate, ~~reaction of~~ reacting the reaction mixture (II) with a cationizing agent, wherein the amines are dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine.

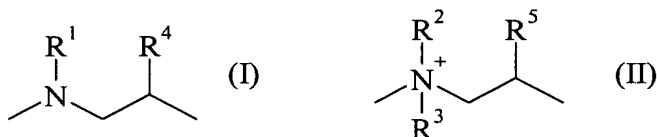
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least one epichlorohydrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of α -epichlorohydrin, bisepoxides, bischlorohydroxy compounds, and phosgene.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ratio of amines to epichlorohydrin derivative or derivatives is from 0.8 : 1.2 to 1.2 : 0.8.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the reaction in ~~process step~~-(a) is effected at from 40 to 100°C.

5. (Currently Amended) An epichlorohydrinamine polymer obtainable by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polymer has at least two general structural units (I) and (II)



where ~~R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ have the following meanings:~~

wherein

R¹ and R²: -(CH₂)₃N(CH₃)₂, -CH₂C₆H₅, -(CH₂)₂NH₂, -(CH₂)₂OH, or
-(CH₂)₂NH (CH₂)₂NH₂

R³: H[[,]] or alkyl

R⁴ and R⁵: H or OH.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the amine and/or ammonium units are derived from dimethylaminopropylamine and benzylamine, the amine and/or ammonium units ~~being~~ are

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composed of from 0.5 to 0.8 part of dimethylaminopropylamine and from 0.2 to 0.5 part of benzylamine.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The epichlorohydrinamine polymer as claimed ~~in any of~~
~~claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of from
 $1 \cdot 10^2$ to $2 \cdot 10^5$ g/mol.

Claims 9 and 10 (Canceled)

11. (New) A method for the surface treatment of leather comprising treating the
surface of a semi finished leather product with an epichlorohydrinamine polymer according
to claim 5.